



## **33rd Annual Chance Crawford Benefit Softball Tournament This Weekend**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – APRIL 18, 2013**

The 33rd Annual Chance Crawford Benefit Softball Tournament will be held this weekend - April 19-21 at diamonds through the greater Roanoke Valley. This tournament is a cooperative regional effort of the City of Salem, City of Roanoke, Roanoke County and Botetourt County, and this year games will be played at the James I. Moyer Sports Complex, Botetourt Sports Complex, Salem Civic Center, Oakey's Field in Salem, Arnold R. Burton Field, Whispering Pines, Wasena Park, and Huff Lane in Roanoke.

This year's tournament, which will again be headquartered at the Moyer Complex, will feature the following divisions: Men's B Open, Men's C, Men's D, Men's E, Men's Recreation and a Women's Division.

The Chance Crawford Softball Tournament began in the spring of 1981 to help a young Salem High School quarterback, Chance Crawford, who suffered a spinal cord injury during one of his high school football games. The original purpose of the event was to help Chance and his family with the expenses of his education, physical therapy and other medical needs due to the injury.

After Chance graduated from college he was elected Clerk of Court for the City of Salem and at that point, the Chance Crawford Tournament Committee decided to take the proceeds from the tournament and give them back to those in need in the community. As a result of that decision, more than \$400,000 has been awarded to a number of worthy causes including - helping needy families and children, supporting youth sports and providing college scholarships.

The Chance Crawford Tournament Committee will host a picnic for players and coaches, along with their families on Friday, April 19 at 6:30 p.m. at Moyer Sports Complex. The evening's events will include dinner and the Homerun Derby sponsored by Worth.

For more information please call Salem Parks and Recreation at (540)375-3057 or visit the Chance Crawford Tournament Website at [www.chancecrawford.org](http://www.chancecrawford.org). The Tournament Director is Eric O'Brien, Salem's Program Manager for the Moyer Complex and Kiwanis Field. His email address is [eobrien@salemva.gov](mailto:eobrien@salemva.gov).

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